Mr. I. C. Chacko (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Irrigation and Miscellaneous*): (*a*) The Committee's recommendation is under the consideration of Government.

(*b*) A provision of Rs. 1,000 is made in the budget for 1119 for preliminary investigation works.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: Sir, with regard to the answer to part (*b*) may I know whether investigation was not conducted in the past by competent Engineers and exhaustive reports submitted to Government?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: Sir, only preliminary investigations were conducted on previous occasions.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: Then, what is the necessity for providing another Rs. 1,000 for this preliminary investigation?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: This allotment is made to prepare a detailed estimate.

Food production and construction of new roads.

2. ***Mr. K. M. Kesavan** (*Karunagapalli, Kartikapalli and Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertalla*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have opened any road anywhere with a view to encourage food production during the current year?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: No.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: May I know whether any requisitions were made for opening new roads by the public?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: No, not for the purpose of food production.

Salt for manure.

3. ***Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar** (*Parur, Kunnatnad and Muvattupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether salt was purchased by any section of the public anywhere in Travancore for purposes of manure in the years 1116 and 1117;

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, what was the total quantity purchased in those years for purposes of manure; and

(*c*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the negative, what were the reasons for not purchasing the same?

Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan (*Excise Commissioner*):

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) 4 Mds. in 1116 and 28 Mds. in 1117.

(*c*) In view of answer to part (*b*) this question does not arise.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: With reference to the answer to part (*b*) may I know from the honourable member whether salt is not good as manure for agricultural purposes?

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